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### Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Session No. : 6

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB01**

**(Question Serial No. S0024)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

This is a follow-up question on Reply Serial No. ENB023:

It is stated that over 500 000 participants have joined the educational activities and guided tours organised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Would the Government please advise on the number of guides providing such guided tour services? Among them, how many are holders of a tour guide certificate?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No.)

Reply:

In 2014, about 370 eco-tour guides participated in the educational activities and guided tours on nature conservation organised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). These eco-tour guides include AFCD staff, contractors and volunteers from the volunteer schemes launched by the AFCD. They have all received eco-tour guide training but are not required to hold a Tourist Guide Pass issued by the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB02**

**(Question Serial No. S0025)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

This is a follow-up question on Reply Serial No. ENB024:

Will the Government further conduct detailed assessment on the number of visitors to major country parks in order to serve as a guide for provision of more tourism facilities correspondingly and enhancing publicity at the more popular country parks?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No.)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been regularly conducting sampling visitor surveys at the major entry points and recreational sites of various country parks with a view to estimating, with reference to the data collected in the sampling surveys, the number of visitors to the country parks located in different parts of Hong Kong including Hong Kong Island, New Territories, Sai Kung and Lantau Island. Since many country parks are geographically connected and visitors such as hikers often travel or use more than one country parks in each trip, we consider that the existing method of visitor surveys provides necessary information to AFCD in the planning and management of country park facilities as well as the organisation of publicity and education programmes.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB03**

**(Question Serial No. S0026)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

This is a follow-up question on Reply Serial No. ENB024:

Regarding collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to promote visits to country parks, would the Government please further advise on the expenditure involved in collaboration with the HKTB on promotion, apart from the departmental expenses of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No.)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) has been promoting the city's natural landscape to visitors, international media and overseas trade partners through various channels such as digital media, marketing promotions, public relations, visitor centres, hotlines and trade activities. In collaboration with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), HKTB has been actively promoting Hong Kong's nature-based green tourism products through its "Great Outdoors Hong Kong" platform, covering the country parks and the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China. The expenditure of the HKTB on the promotion of green tourism has been included in its total marketing budget of the year. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure for individual items.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB04**

**(Question Serial No. SV007)**

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department  
Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified  
Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials  
Controlling Officer: Acting Director of Civil Engineering and Development  
(F M LUK)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Pursuant to reply no. ENB028, the Administration is requested to provide information on the amount of public fill out of the four million tonnes generated from major infrastructure projects in the past five years that is attributed to public housing projects.

Asked by: Hon James TIEN (Member Question No. )

Reply:

In the past five years, public housing projects generated on average about 1 million tonnes of public fill annually.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB05**

**(Question Serial No. S0028)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Ms Anissa WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme (the Programme), would the Administration advise on the following:

- (1) Which party is responsible for the measurement and auditing of the effectiveness in emission reduction of various projects under the Programme? How does the Administration ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data?
- (2) The Programme aims to set an example for the Pearl River Delta Region and even the Guangdong Province to achieve regional environmental benefits by virtue of the emission reduction technologies and practices of Hong Kong-owned factories. Does the Administration have any intention to publicise the emission reduction and waste reduction technologies to other non-Hong Kong-owned factories through the Programme? Will objective indicators be set to assess whether the Programme can effectively attract non-Hong Kong-owned factories to adopt the technologies promoted by the Programme?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG, Kenneth (Member Question No. 24)

Reply:

- (1) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme (the Programme) in collaboration with the Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province in April 2008. The Programme aims to encourage and facilitate Hong Kong-owned factories operating in Guangdong and Hong Kong to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices, thereby improving the regional environment.

There are three kinds of funding projects under the Programme. Their effectiveness in energy saving and emission reduction is evaluated in the following manner:

- (a) On-site assessments - environmental technology (ET) service providers registered under the Programme will conduct comprehensive assessments for participating factories to identify their problems and propose practical improvement solutions for follow-up implementation by the factories. The Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) will vet and approve the project reports to ensure their reliability. On-site assessments are not directly involved in energy saving and emission reduction.
- (b) Demonstration projects - ET service providers will install equipment or modify production processes for participating factories to demonstrate the effectiveness of cleaner production technologies.

Upon receiving applications for demonstration projects, HKPC will conduct initial vetting in accordance with the established criteria, including the anticipated effectiveness of the projects and then submit its recommendations to the Project Management Committee set up by EPD for consideration and approval. ET service providers will evaluate the effectiveness of the projects upon their completion and incorporate relevant data into the project reports. HKPC will vet and approve the project reports and conduct on-site inspections for every demonstration project to ensure the accuracy of the reports.

- (c) Verification of effectiveness for improvement projects - HKPC will, based on its professional knowledge and experience, verify the effectiveness of improvement projects implemented by participating factories. HKPC's independent verification services can ensure that the data on energy saving and emission reduction of the Programme are accurate and reliable.
- (2) Since the commencement of the Programme, we have organised about 390 awareness promotion and publicity activities, mainly in the form of seminars, workshops, briefings and factory visits, which attracted over 34 000 participants from some 8 000 factories. As enterprises subsidised by the Programme must be Hong Kong-owned factories, the promotion activities mainly target at Hong Kong-owned factories. That being the case, non-Hong Kong-owned factories were also attracted to participate in promotion and publicity activities relating to cleaner production technologies. The Programme facilitates sharing of knowledge and experience in adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices through the operation of a dedicated website and 3 enquiry hotlines, and the production of 10 cleaner production guidebooks, over 200 reports on success stories as well as over 40 promotion and publicity videos. The information has been uploaded to the dedicated website of the Programme for reference by the industries, which has an average annual hit rate of about 90 000. Both Hong Kong-owned and non-Hong Kong-owned factories can benefit from these promotion and publicity activities.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****S-ENB06****(Question Serial No. S0036)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Ms Anissa WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Will the Administration release the carbon audit data of existing government buildings and public facilities to the public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why not?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG, Kenneth (Member Question No.32)

Reply:

The government rolled out in September 2012 a 3-year programme to conduct energy-cum-carbon audits for about 120 government buildings and public facilities, including public markets, public swimming pools, indoor sports centres, schools, healthcare facilities, community halls, food markets, etc. The 3-year energy-cum-carbon audits programme aims to identify room for carbon reduction for government buildings and public facilities. According to the completed audits, the average sectorial energy utilisation index (EUI) of the related government buildings and public facilities is as follows:

<b>Government buildings and public facilities</b>	<b>Average EUI (kWh/ m<sup>2</sup> / year)</b>	<b>Anticipated room for energy saving (%)</b>
Public markets	378	5.5%
Public swimming pools	251	3.1%
Indoor sports centres	364	9.6%
Secondary schools	103	13.2%

Before the launch of the aforementioned 3-year programme, we promulgated a guideline in 2009 to encourage bureaux and departments to carry out regular carbon audits for government buildings with construction floor area of more than 10 000 square metres. Since the promulgation of the carbon audit practice, around 250 government buildings and public facilities have participated in carbon auditing, including the carbon audits conducted under the above 3-year programme. No detailed information is available for carbon audits conducted before September 2012. We will continue to encourage bureaux and departments to carry out regular carbon audits according to the guideline and follow up on the recommendations in the audit reports.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB07**

**(Question Serial No. S0029)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Ms Anissa WONG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (1) The Secretary for the Environment has just indicated at the Special Finance Committee meeting that a blueprint on energy conservation and green building will be published during the summer holidays this year. Would the Administration advise on the progress of preparation of the blueprint and the policy objectives set?
- (2) What are the staffing establishment and ranks of the Administration's staff responsible for the Steering Committee on the Promotion of Green Building?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG, Kenneth (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

- (1) The Government is studying the appropriate strategies for promoting energy conservation and green building and is preparing a report. The report will be published when ready.
- (2) The work on the Steering Committee on the Promotion of Green Building is absorbed by existing manpower of various government bureaux and departments. As the staff concerned have other duties, we do not have a breakdown on the manpower resources involved in individual work items.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB08**

**(Question Serial No. S0031)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Ms Anissa WONG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the blueprint on energy conservation and green building to be published soon, will the Administration advise on the following:

Has the Administration conducted a review on the initiative on gross floor area (GFA) concessions since 2011? If yes, will the Administration consider tightening the requirements for granting GFA concessions or granting such according to the green building ratio so as to increase the energy-saving efficiency of private buildings? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG, Kenneth (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

To foster a quality and sustainable built environment, the Government has since April 2011 implemented a package of measures, including imposing an overall cap on gross floor area (GFA) concessions for new building developments and setting pre-requisites for granting the GFA concessions. These pre-requisites include compliance with the sustainable building design guidelines on building separation, building setback and site coverage of greenery where applicable and the tightened acceptance criteria for green and amenity features, as well as completion of registration for BEAM Plus certification of the Hong Kong Green Building Council. The number of projects that have been completed in accordance with the requirements is limited as the measures have been implemented for a short time only. Therefore, we have yet to be able to assess the effectiveness of the measures and have no plan to introduce changes for the time being. We will conduct a review on the basis of the accumulated experience after a reasonable number of projects have been completed.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB09**

**(Question Serial No.: S0032)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Ms Anissa WONG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. The Administration stated in the replies to initial written questions that the Steering Committee for the Promotion of Green Building (the Steering Committee) had received proposals on promotion of green building from various stakeholders for analysis. Will the Administration make public the number of proposals received and a summary of the proposals? If yes, through what channels? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Could the Administration advise us on the specific work of the Steering Committee since its establishment in 2013, such as offering support to which government departments for promoting green building and/or conducting relevant policy reviews?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG, Kenneth (Member Question No.: 28)

Reply:

1. The Steering Committee for the Promotion of Green Building (the Steering Committee) has received suggestions on the promotion of green building through different channels, including organising a stakeholder engagement forum, receiving written submissions, and exchanging views with stakeholders including the relevant professional groups, etc. It would not be appropriate to present in quantitative terms the suggestions collected through different channels and means. The views of the industry and stakeholders will be reflected when the Government formulates policies and measures in future.
2. The Steering Committee comprises standing members from more than 10 bureaux and departments, including the Environment Bureau, the Development Bureau and the Transport and Housing Bureau as well as the departments under their purview. The Steering Committee acts as the central coordinating body to coordinate efforts by various bureaux and departments in promoting green building in Hong Kong in a holistic manner. Apart from conducting discussions at the meetings, the Steering Committee has also organised an engagement forum for stakeholders to collect views and suggestions from relevant professional groups, trades, academic organisations and environmental groups on the promotion of green building. The Steering Committee is currently reviewing the green building policy of existing government buildings with a view to further enhancing the environmental performance of government buildings.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****S-ENB10****(Question Serial No.: S0033)**

**Head:** (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

**Subhead (No. & title):** (-) Not Specified

**Programme:** (1) Director of Bureau's Office (2) Power

**Controlling Officer:** Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Ms Anissa WONG)

**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for the Environment

**Question:**

Regarding the details of official duty visits carried out by officers of the Environment Bureau, please inform this Committee:

What were the detailed itineraries of official duty visits carried out by officers of the Environment Bureau in the past five years, as well as the summary of the discussion topics?

**Asked by:** Hon LEUNG, Kenneth (Member Question No.: 29)

**Reply:**

Information on the official duty visits carried out by officers of the Environment Bureau in the past five years is provided in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Places visited</b>	<b>Discussion topics</b>
2010-11 (35 visits)	Mainland China, Macao, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Germany, Mexico	Experience sharing and liaison on environmental protection, energy and related policies
2011-12 (22 visits)	Mainland China, Macao, France, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America	
2012-13 (25 visits)	Mainland China, Taiwan, Macao, Russia, Sweden, United States of America, Singapore	
2013-14 (33 visits)	Mainland China, Taiwan, Macao, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, South Africa, South Korea, Singapore	
2014-15 (23 visits) (up to 11 March 2015)	Mainland China, Macao, United States of America, Italy, Spain, Japan	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB11**

**(Question Serial No. S0035)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (3) Sustainable Development  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Ms Anissa WONG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Will the Administration regularly review the qualitative and quantitative criteria in the Computer-Aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool so as to make timely adjustments to the sustainability assessment parameters, items in the social checklist and guiding principles in accordance with Hong Kong's actual situation for the scoring of various policy proposals under the existing assessment mechanism? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG, Kenneth (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

The Computer-Aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool (CASET) aims to provide a systematic approach for bureaux and departments to thoroughly consider the sustainability implications to Hong Kong when putting forward policy proposals. There is no scoring mechanism in the CASET. The Environment Bureau reviews the various parameters, questions and principles in the CASET from time to time to ensure that the system is up-to-date. The latest review was completed in 2014, and in the light of the review, parameters and questions related to areas such as energy consumption, waste reduction and recycling were incorporated, and similar and related parameters and questions were consolidated.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB12**

**(Question Serial No. S0125)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What is the Government's position on extraction of bear bile from live bears? Are there any relevant policies in place with regard to such position?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. )

Reply:

Hong Kong implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through enforcing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance). The objective of the CITES is to strengthen trade controls through adoption of effective measures among governments of the contracting parties, so as to effectively protect the endangered species of wild fauna and flora and ensure that the sustainable use of wild fauna and flora will not be affected by international trade. CITES and the Ordinance do not impose regulation on the methods of collecting specimens of endangered species.

- End -